



U.S. Representative
ABIGAIL SPANBERGER
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Agriculture, Conservation, Environment, & Forestry Grant Resource Guide

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About This Guide

This **Agriculture and Forestry Grant Resource Guide** is intended to be used in conjunction with our more general **Grant Resource Guide**, which contains information about identifying and applying for federal grants.

Each year, 26 federal agencies award federal grants to support community initiatives, research, infrastructure programs, and public interest projects, all relevant to the work and/or goals of that agency. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis or distributed under a formula. The majority of federal grant recipients are state and local government agencies who then distribute funds to smaller entities.

The **Grant Resource Guide** includes the following topic areas:

- What is a Federal Grant?
- Finding Grant Opportunities
- Determining Eligibility
- Applying for Grants
- Awarding Grants: The Process
- Additional Resources
- Letter of Support

This **Agriculture and Forestry Grant Resource Guide** provides information about federal agencies which offer grants in this field, as well as examples of grants currently offered.

For more information about the grant process, to discuss a letter of support, or for any other questions, please contact Shawn Meredith at Shawn.Meredith@mail.house.gov

Please note: Funding information and application deadlines are subject to change. Potential applicants should regularly check grants.gov and the funding agency's grants webpage for the most up-to-date information.

Federal Agencies and Available Grants

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA utilizes science and public policy to improve economic opportunity in rural areas, promote agricultural production, and preserve natural resources. To achieve this goal, the Department offers an array of funding avenues that assist with projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities and other services to rural America.

For more information about USDA grants and programs, please visit the USDA page on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or usda.gov/topics/farming/grants-and-loans

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Foundational and Applied Science

Current Grants.gov close date: July 29, 2021

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG)

Current Grants.gov close date: August 2, 2021

The MPIRG supports a range of eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities, including facilities operating under State inspection or those exempt from Federal inspection, in making facility improvements and carrying out other planning activities necessary to obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection or to operate as a State-inspected facility that is compliant with the cooperative interstate shipment program under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or Poultry Products Inspection Act. Such entities may include, but are not limited to, commercial businesses, cooperatives, tribal enterprises, etc. The program focuses on:

- Improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency;
- Developing new markets and expanding existing markets;
- Increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand;
- Maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards;
- Obtaining a larger commercial presence;
- Increasing access to slaughter/processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, veteran producers, and underserved communities.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

Current Grants.gov close date: August 9, 2021

The primary objective of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant program is to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) - Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The REAP will provide funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the nations critical energy needs. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program

Current Grants.gov close date: August 2, 2021

The primary objective of the RISE program is to support jobs accelerator partnerships to improve the ability of distressed rural and energy communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives Competitive Application

Current Grants.gov close date: August 30, 2021

DBI initiatives manage regional efforts to support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products. These initiatives specifically focus on: 1) diversifying dairy product markets to reduce risk and develop higher-value uses for dairy products; 2) promoting business development that diversifies farmer income through processing and marketing innovation; and 3) encouraging the use of regional milk production. Initiatives are expected to provide direct technical assistance and make sub-grants to dairy businesses.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Program

Current Grants.gov close date: September 27, 2021

The Agriculture Innovation Center Program makes grants to Agriculture Innovation Centers that may be used by the Centers to provide technical assistance to agricultural producers to help

them develop and market value-added agricultural products using a variety of options, except joint marketing efforts.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program

Applications accepted year-round

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility then is responsible for repayment to USDA. USDA provides grants to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). Loans are made from the revolving loan funds to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to USDA.

Please click [here](#) for more information

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

With a wide range of responsibilities in the areas of trade, economic development, technology, entrepreneurship and business development, environmental stewardship, and statistical research and analysis, DOC promotes job creation, economic growth, sustainable development and improved standards of living for all Americans by working in partnership with businesses, universities, communities and the nation's workers.

For more information about DOC grants, please visit the DOC grant page on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or [commerce.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-contract-opportunities](https://www.commerce.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-contract-opportunities)

Climate Program Office

Current Grants.gov close date: October 18, 2021

Climate variability and change present society with significant economic, health, safety, and security challenges. As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate portfolio within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the Climate Program Office (CPO) addresses these climate challenges by managing competitive research programs through which high-priority climate science, assessments, decision-support research, outreach, education, and capacity-building activities are funded to advance our understanding of the Earth's climate system, and to foster the application and use of this knowledge to improve the resilience of our Nation and its partners. Through this announcement, CPO is seeking applications for eight individual competitions in FY22. Several of these competitions are relevant to four high-priority climate risk areas CPO is focusing on to improve science understanding and/or capabilities that result in user-driven outcomes: Coastal Inundation, Marine Ecosystems, Water Resources, and Extreme Heat.

Please click [here](#) for more information

U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)

Through various bureaus, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM), and the National Park Service (NPS), DOI awards grants and cooperative agreements to commercial organizations, foreign entities, Indian tribal governments, individuals, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and state and local governments that align with the Department of the Interior's mission to manage and sustain America's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources, while honoring our nation's responsibilities to tribal nations and advocating for America's island communities.

For information about DOI grants, please visit the DOI page on [grants.gov](#) or [doi.gov/grants](#)

Cooperative Agreement for CESU-affiliated Partner with Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Current Grants.gov close date: July 23, 2021

The USGS is offering a funding opportunity to a CESU partner for research in broad scale water quality modeling, with an emphasis on water temperature. Water temperature is a “master variable” for many important aquatic outcomes, including the suitability of habitat, evaporation rates, greenhouse gas exchange, and efficiency of thermoelectric energy production. Stream temperature is one of the most widely measured water characteristics by the USGS, though monitoring gaps in time and space requires modeling efforts to understand broad-scale temperature dynamics and supply decision-ready data to our stakeholders.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Desalination and Water Purification Research Program

Current Grants.gov close date: September 9, 2021

The DWPR Program works with Reclamation researchers and partners to develop more innovative, cost-effective, and technologically efficient ways to desalinate water. Furthermore, the DWPR Program funding seeks to improve technologies for water supply development from nontraditional waters, including seawater, brackish groundwater, and municipal wastewater.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Endangered Species Recovery Implementation

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The principal objective of this Recovery Implementation funding opportunity is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. The ESA conveys the importance of recovery plans as a central organizing tool for guiding each

species' recovery process by requiring their development for every listed species. Recovery plans establish an overall recovery vision that, among other things:

- Defines the point at which protections under the ESA are no longer needed,
- Identifies and prioritizes the most effective and feasible suite of recovery actions that will promote species survival and recovery,
- Provides the public and policy makers with an overall estimate of the time and cost to recover species, and the ability to measure success and resources needs, and
- Aids the Service in working with others to improve the status for imperiled species.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Candidate Species Conservation Fund

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The principle objective of this Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity is to accomplish conservation tasks for high priority candidate species (based on our annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. These efforts are based on cooperative relationships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The PFW Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Coastal Program

Current Grants.gov close date: September 30, 2021

The Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Program staff coordinates with partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for Federal trust species. Projects are developed in collaboration with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff.

Please click [here](#) for more information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Every year, the EPA awards more than \$4 billion in funding to state and local governments, tribes, universities, nonprofit recipients, and other entities for grants and other assistance agreements to achieve their environmental goals. The EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment is accomplished, in large part, by the awarding of funds to other organizations to conduct environmental program or projects. When the EPA transfers funds for a public purpose, it uses a legal instrument called an assistance agreement, which may be in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement.

For more information about EPA grants, please visit the EPA page on [grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants) or [epa.gov/grants](https://www.epa.gov/grants)

Building Partner Capacity and Promoting Resiliency and Equity under Clean Water Act Wetlands, Nonpoint Source, Monitoring, Assessment and Listing Programs

Current Grants.gov close date: August 10, 2021

The EPA is soliciting applications from eligible applicants to provide support for training and related activities to build the capacity of agricultural partners, state, territorial and tribal officials and nongovernmental stakeholders in activities to be carried out to support the goals of the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) Program, the Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) Program, the Wetlands Program, the CWA 401 Program, and the Water Quality Monitoring Program. Awardees will assess and assist state, territorial and tribal officials, nongovernmental stakeholders, and other stakeholders through knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Agriculture and Nonpoint Sources Program Support for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

Current Grants.gov close date: August 10, 2021

The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) is announcing a Request for Applications (RFA) for applicants to provide the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners with an application for technical and programmatic support related to implementation of the agricultural and other nonpoint source components of the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions' (listed below) Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). This RFA is seeking cost-effective applications from eligible applicants for supporting state, regional, and local partners, and other non-federal stakeholders to build the institutional and programmatic capacity for accelerated implementation of agricultural conservation and other nonpoint source programs. This work will improve coordination and provide technical and logistical support to the CBP partnership's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT), the Agriculture Workgroup, and the Watershed Technical Workgroup. Applications should also include technical and coordination

support to the nonfederal partners and the appropriate CBP technical workgroups for determining the best means for ensuring all implemented nonpoint source (both agricultural and non-agricultural) best management practices (BMPs) are tracked, verified, reported, and simulated in the suite of CBP partnership models.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Children's Healthy Learning Environments in Low-Income and/or Minority Communities

Current Grants.gov close date: September 10, 2021

The purpose of this Children's Healthy Learning Environments in Low-Income and/or Minority Communities solicitation (RFA) is to provide funds for capacity building activities to address disproportionate children's environmental health harms and risks in school and/or childcare settings in, or that primarily serve, low-income and/or minority communities. This RFA provides funding directly to organizations to support school- and/or childcare center-based capacity building projects that help school communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues that affect children. Projects must take place in schools and/or childcare centers that are located in minority and/or low-income communities and/or primarily serve student populations that are minority and/or low-income (e.g., Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Title I schools, tribal schools).

Please click [here](#) for more information

National Priorities: Water Innovation, Science, Engagement To Advance Water Reuse

Current Grants.gov close date: September 29, 2021

The EPA is seeking applications proposing to accelerate water innovation, information availability, and engagement to advance clean and safe water reuse goals, promote better understanding of the Nation's water and wastewater treatment and infrastructure, and enhance the availability and efficient use of water resources through water reuse. This request for applications is intended to address multiple water reuse sources and applications to support national efforts to reduce technological and institutional barriers for expanded water reuse.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Additional Resources

Grants.gov Questions?

Contact the Grants.gov Support Center at 1-800-518-4726 (TTY: 301-240-6310), via [email](#), or visit the [Grants.gov](#) website.

Beta.SAM

beta.SAM has replaced the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). It lists all federal grant opportunities and breaks them down by agency and identifier numbers. Like Grants.gov,

you can view both ongoing and past grants. You cannot apply for federal grants via beta.SAM; the only place to apply for federal grants is Grants.gov

For more information, please visit: beta.sam.gov/

Congressional Research Service (CRS)

CRS contains guides to help grant applicants understand and complete their applications. These guides include:

- How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal
- Resources for Grantseekers
- Federal Grants-in-Aid Administration: A Primer
- Community Development Block Grants and Related Programs: A Primer

For more information, please visit: crs.gov/

A-Z Index of U.S. Departments and Agencies

To better develop a grant proposal, search a department or agency's Home Page to learn more about its programs and objectives.

For more information, please visit: usa.gov/federal-agencies/a

Government Benefits, Grants, and Loans

Includes contracting with the U.S. government, international trade and exporting, and small business. See also financial assistance links at the Small Business Administration website: sba.gov/funding-programs/grants

For more information, please visit: usa.gov/benefits-grants-loans

Student Aid (via Dept. of Education)

Information on funding education beyond high school, including grants, loans, and work-study assistance to qualified students.

For more information, please visit: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/

Benefits.gov (via Dept. of Labor)

Includes information on over 1,000 government assistance programs, and how to apply. Covers direct payment, loan, insurance, training, or other services.

For more information, please visit: benefits.gov/

FTC Consumer Alert (via Federal Trade Commission)

The FTC Consumer Alert warns consumers to beware of paying "processing fees" for information that is available free to the public. Ads claiming federal grants are available for home repairs, home business, unpaid bills, or other personal expenses are often a scam.

For more information, please visit: ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt134.shtm

OMB Grants Management Web Site (via Office of Management and Budget)

OMB establishes government-wide grants management policies and guidelines through circulars and common rules. OMB Circulars are cited in *Catalog* program descriptions and may be printed out full text.

For more information, please visit: [whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/circulars/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-for-agencies/circulars/)

Representative Spanberger's Office

If your organization needs our office's assistance or would like to request a letter of support for your grant proposal, please contact our Grants Coordinator, Shawn Meredith, at shawn.meredith@mail.house.gov.